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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 612
By Hargrove

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend The Hendley Family Association, Incorporated of Tennessee, on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary of their incorporation and the 167th Anniversary of their founding in Putnam County.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those organizations who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, one such group of people is The Hendley Family Association, Incorporated of Tennessee, on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary of their establishment and the 167th Anniversary of their founding in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, on June 18, 1835, Adin M. Hendley, of Georgia, and Elizabeth Jane Gentry, of Putnam County, then known as Jackson County, were joined in holy matrimony at the Hebron United Baptist Church of Christ, and from that day forward, this loving couple faced the world as one, basking in the glow of their love for one another during both life's joys and sorrows. Two sons were born from that blessed union, William Meredith Hendley and Francis Marion Hendley, and thus grew the Hendley Family Association, Incorporated of Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, the Hendley Family Association was first organized as a family reunion between the families of William Meredith Hendley and Francis Marion Hendley; as the different branches of the family tree converged on Providence, Indiana on Memorial Day in 1975, little did they know that this family reunion would later become a strong association that would become incorporated and be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of its incorporation and the 167th Anniversary of its founding in Putnam County; and

WHEREAS, officers were elected for the association and an inauguration took place on January 1, 1976; the first elected executive officers were the late Mr. Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley II, as their National President, the late Mr. Emerson Holmes Hendley as the Vice President, Mrs. Julie T. Hendley as the National Secretary, and Mr. William H. Hendley as their Genealogist; and

WHEREAS, The new association also had its own Board of Directors, which included Mr. Stephen Holmes Hendley and Mrs. Sarah Jane Stafford who both represented the William Meredith Hendley branch of the family tree, and Mr. Billy Frank Hendley and Mr. Fred A. Hendley, Sr., who represented the Francis Marion Hendley branch; today, both Sarah Jane and Fred, Sr., are still serving on the association's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the first Chief Elder was Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Hendley Hale, daughter of Francis Marion Hendley; Sarah Hale served as the family matriarch until her death on March 6, 1976, at which time she had seen ninety-seven years of life on this earth; and

WHEREAS, on December 29, 1976, the Hendley Family Association was granted a charter by the Secretary of State Joe C. Carr, with the family's first Executive officers and Board members as the original signatories to the charter; and

WHEREAS, the newly incorporated Hendley Family Association elected a Tennessean in 1977 for the first time as its National President, Mr. Billy Frank Hendley, originally of Hilldale; and

WHEREAS, The Hendley Family Association, Incorporated of Tennessee's last Tennessean to ascend to Chief Elder was the late Mrs. Jewell Catherine Hendley Medley, a native of Clay County, who served as the family matriarch from August 28, 1998 until her death on February 2, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The family adopted as it's official motto, the words of Governor Ned McWherter in his first inaugural address, "It is appropriate today that we pause to remember who we are, where we came from, and what we have been taught"; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of these important milestones in this family's history, the members of this body find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to recognize this special group of people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and commend the Hendley Family Association, Incorporated of Tennessee, its officers and members for twenty-five years of service to the organization, their dedication to their family, and preservation of its Tennessee heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.